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LETTER DATED 12 MAY 1991 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a letter dated 12 May 1991 from Mr. Ahmed Hussein, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq, concerning the proposal to deploy civilian police to assist the United Nations relief operations in northern Iraq.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Abdul Amir A. AL-ANBARI
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex

Letter dated 12 May 1991 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq addressed to the President of the Security Council

Through its Permanent Representative to the United Nations, at a meeting with our Permanent Representative on the morning of 10 May 1991, the United States of America informed us of its concern at the information that reached it when the United States President had received the Secretary-General of the United Nations on 9 May, namely that the mission of Mr. Marrack Goulding had failed and that Iraq did not accept the Secretary-General's proposal for the deployment of civilian police to assist United Nations relief operations in northern Iraq. The paper read by the Permanent Representative of the United States contained, inter alia, the following points, which he said represented the reaction of the United States Administration:

> Taking account of resolution 688, the Government of Iraq must understand that the international community is determined to provide for the necessary protection and security for refugees in Iraq as expressed in that resolution, with which Iraq must comply.
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> Iraq must prove its intentions by providing the United Nations with all the mechanisms necessary to ensure the complete safety and protection of the operation and by moving rapidly to work with the Secretary-General and his representatives in the appropriate manner in order to implement this task.

The United States reminds Iraq that the provision of a mechanism protecting the humanitarian operation in Iraq will enable the United Nations to be in a position to assume the successful management of the operation. This would help to bring an end to the humanitarian mission of the coalition forces in northern Iraq so as to achieve the goal which Iraq has stated in writing that it is its desire to achieve.

It is clear from the foregoing that the United States of America is treating the matter as if it were speaking on behalf of the Security Council and the international community and as if Security Council resolution 688 had become a cover to permit encroachment on Iraq's sovereignty and territorial integrity and interference in its internal affairs. The United States and the European States cooperating with it, such as the United Kingdom, France and the Netherlands, have brought their armed forces into northern Iraq on the pretext that resolution 688 authorizes them to engage in such obvious military intervention in the internal affairs of Iraq and to violate its territorial integrity. This claim could not be farther from the truth, and the resolution does not grant any party any such authorization. The case is rather that the entire operation constitutes a flagrant violation of the fundamental principle on which the United Nations is based, namely the sovereign equality of all its Members.

It is clear also that these Western States have resorted to developing the ways and means that they have applied during their known history in the region so as to claim now that they are using force of arms and intervention in the internal affairs of States for purposes of humanitarian assistance. In addition, the position of the United States and the States cooperating with it reveals once again duality in the concepts dealt with by those States in the service of their political objectives. Those who have left their towns and villages in northern Iraq are part of the people of Iraq, and Iraq's concern with returning them to their towns and villages and satisfying their needs is a natural thing and one of the main duties of the government authorities. However, the forces and States that are expressing concern for the security and safety of these Iraqis are the same States that bombarded them and their civilian installations and deprived them of food and medicaments. They are the same States that are still imposing a blockade on the whole Iraqi people, 4 million of whom are living in the city of Baghdad alone and suffering daily from a shortage of food and vital human requirements.

The Iraqi authorities have taken all necessary measures, utilizing all their capacities, for the return of those who have been displaced to their villages and homes, for the restoration of normal life in the northern region, including the amnesty issued in respect of the rebels who engaged in strife and destruction, and for preparing the necessary climate for the safe return of all to their place of residence. A large number of the displaced persons have actually returned without any incident.

It is well known that tens of thousands of those returning have been from areas where the coalition forces maintain no presence, whereas no significant number have returned to areas where those forces maintain a presence.

There are some States that are keeping these displaced persons for dubious political purposes, and that lies outside the responsibility of the Iraqi authorities.

Iraq, for its part, has shown full cooperation with the United Nations and other international organizations in aiding those who were led to emigrate and assuring their return to their homes. The memorandum of understanding of 18 April 1991 was signed with the Executive Delegate of the Secretary-General, Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan, to regulate the efforts and activities of the international agencies concerned with regard to the provision of the required assistance in cooperation with the authorities and the humanitarian organizations in Iraq.

The United States and the States cooperating with it know quite well that, with their armed intervention in northern Iraq, they are acting in a way that violates Iraq's sovereignty and constitutes intervention in its internal affairs. It also violates the principles of the United Nations Charter and the principles of international law and custom. They are now trying to impose a fait accompli on Iraq and to provide a cover of legitimacy for their illegal acts by forcing the Security Council to adopt the United States positions. The present United States demand for the deployment of so-called "civilian"

police in the place of the United States and other Western forces in northern Iraq is but another example of this new way of exploiting the United Nations based on the logic of force. It has become clear to us now that the more Iraq accepts Security Council resolutions, shows its readiness to implement their provisions, and assumes its responsibilities in that regard, the more these States raise new problems in order to make further attacks on the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Iraq and the more they increase their attempts to intervene in its internal affairs. We hope that the members of the Security Council will be aware of the truth regarding the intentions of the United States of America and the States cooperating with it and will put a halt to the intervention in the internal affairs of Iraq and the use of the Council and the United Nations as a cover for such interventions.

I request you to have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

Ahmed HUSSEIN
Minister for Foreign Affairs
of the Republic of Iraq

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